7

Manga
Shimo Aono

Original Work
Makishima Suzuki

Character Design
Yappen

Welcome to Japan, Ms. Elf!

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WELCOME TO JAPAN, MS. ELF!

CONTENTS

Chapter 35 - Fun in the Ancient Labyrinth - 3 003
Chapter 36 - Hanging Out in Aomori - 1 029
Chapter 37 - Hanging Out in Aomori - 2 055
Chapter 38 - Hanging Out in Aomori - 3 081
Chapter 39 - Hanging Out in Aomori - 4 107
Chapter 40 - Hanging Out in Aomori - 5 133
Bonus 157
Afterword 161

CHAPTER 35 FUN IN THE ANCIENT LABYRINTH - 3

FWIP

PHWSH

OVER THE ROAD.

I MIGHT NEED TO HAVE BOTH FEET PLANTED TO USE THIS SKILL...

...BUT THE CRAMPED QUARTERS MAKES THAT LESS OF A PROBLEM.

ガシッ!!

SLICE

SHRK

ZSH

VWP

ドゴッ

ZSH

VWIP

VWIP

VWIP

YES!
GOT HIS
LEG!

!!!

BAM

WHICH MEANS THE THING IN THE CENTER...

THIS IS ITS TRUE FORM.

I HOPE HE'S OKAY...

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG MY SPELL WILL LAST.

IT'S A RATHER IRRITATING WAY TO FIGHT.

...IS THE DEMON'S CORE!

ON TOP OF THAT, HE NEEDS TO STOP THE ROARS SUMMONING INTERFER-ENCE.

HE HAS TO OVERCOME ALL THAT AND GET IN CLOSE.

HE HAS TO STAY IN MOTION AND AVOID THE NEEDLES TO SLASH THE DEMON.

LEAP

YOU JUST STAND THERE AND GET READY!

EEP!

AW, QUIT WORRYING SO MUCH!

BESIDES,

HE HAS AN ADVANTAGE...

I CAN MAKE IT!

ONE MORE ATTACK—

PEW

!!!

GR
AB
URK...
NOW I CAN'T MOVE!
DAMN!
JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE PLAYING AT?
CONDENSE TIME.
COME ON.

Was that... Wridra's voice?

BA

THMP

It reminds me of training.

The way her blade slowly came closer was terrifying.

?!

Wait a minute.

Was the blade *actually* moving that slowly?

In that case...

...BUT IN REALITY, WAS WHIPPING RIGHT OVER MY HEAD?

WHAT IF IT **SEEMED** SLOW TO ME...

I can cut through its core...

...without a single blink.

CRUMBLE

HE HAS FINALLY STARTED ON THAT PATH. BUT I SUPPOSE...

CRUMBLE

VRR VRR

...WITHIN AN INSTANT— LESS THAN EVEN A *TENTH* OF A SECOND.

ONE MUST SEE HOW DENSELY ONE CAN PACK THE WORLD...

INDEED.

THAT IS CONDENSED TIME.

...HE'S EARNED SOME PRAISE FOR TODAY.

BEEP

HELLO.

THIS IS AMETHYST.

WE HAVE JUST NOW CARRIED OUT BOTH THE RESCUE...

...AND THE DEMON'S EXTERMINATION.

PLEASE, DON'T MENTION IT. YOU WERE EXHAUSTED, AFTER ALL.

NO, I REALLY GOTTA HAND IT TO YA...

I'M SORRY.

YOU RESCUED US AND I JUST SLEPT LIKE A LOG.

WH- WHAAAH...

THANK YOU FOR SAVING OUR LIVES.

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN.

IS THAT HIS SISTER?

YOU AREN'T QUITE THERE YET AS FAR AS *I'M* CONCERNED.

H-HE CALLED ME "A GOOD MAN"...

GLUB GLUB GLUB GLUB

HEY?

YOU'RE NOT COOKING WHILE IN THE LABYRINTH, ARE YOU?

TONK!!!!!

fwoosh

WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH BOWLS, SO YOU AND ZERA WILL NEED TO SHARE.

WHY DON'T YOU BOTH TRY IT?

THEY DON'T TASTE VERY GOOD.

WELL...

PORTABLE RATIONS WOULD BE A BETTER IDEA.

SLURP

Chinese-style rice porridge with kakuni.

I'VE NEVER HAD ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE!

WHAT IN THE—?! THE PORK IS MELTING IN MY MOUTH...

I CAN WAIT—

OH? YOU WANT ME TO TRY?

MMM

MMM

OKAY, I'LL TRY.

PFFFT

ARE YOU TWO MARRIED?

HAVE SOME TEA.

URK... THAT'S KINDA EMBAR-RASSING.

COME ON, OPEN WIDE.

OPEN YOUR MOUTH, ZERA.

WELL, YOU CAN'T REALLY USE YOUR HANDS.

HUH?

RIGHT?!

D-D-D-D-DON'T BE SILLY!

IT'S WAY TOO SOON FOR THAT!

NOTHING.

WH-WHAT?

SH-
SHEESH,
FINE...

SWIP

...OPEN
WIDE.

HERE
YOU GO...

HURRY
UP! THIS
IS EMBAR-
RASSING!

WHAT'S
WITH
THEM?

WHAT?!

I WASN'T
ASKING YOU
TO-

ELEMAADA RAAB.

NOT ONLY WAS IT ONE OF THE PRIMEVAL BEINGS...

...IT WAS ALSO ONE OF THE BEINGS TRAPPED WITHIN THIS LABYRINTH.

SO THAT WAS DEFINITELY ONE OF THE FLOOR MASTERS.

RIGHT.

LOOK, KAZUHIHO.

THE CORE HAS ALTERED THE BLADE.

SO THE SWORD IS BOTHERING YOU, THEN?

WELL, YEAH.

START

ASTROBLADE.

THE PRIMEVAL CORE IS COMPLETELY PURE AND HAS NO WILL.

AND SO, IT ADOPTS THE WILL OF ITS VANQUISHER.

SHE'S WILLFUL.

IT APPEARS THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT CAN ONLY BE GAINED WITHIN THE WORLD OF CONDENSED TIME.

INVES-TIGATING THE ROOM COMES FIRST.

LEAVE IT FOR LATER.

I WANNA TRY THEM OUT *RIGHT NOW!*

NOT ONLY DID I LEVEL UP, I *ALSO* GOT A SECONDARY SKILL.

MY NEW WEAPON...

...FORMED FROM THE DEMON'S CORE AND MY OWN SWORD.

OVER HERE!

HEY!

SWISH

AND IF MY HUNCH IS RIGHT...

YEAH.

A... STATUE?

AH!

I WAS RIGHT.

ゴゴゴゴ...

ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ

THIS IS THE WAY TO THE REST OF THE LABYRINTH.

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE SAFE.

LORD ZERA! DOULA! WELCOME BACK!

DAMN YOU LOT!

SO, WHEN'S THE CEREMONY?

YOUR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER MUST HAVE GROWN DEEPER AS WELL!

WE'RE SO DAMN GLAD!

RIGHT, YOU MUSTA BEEN WORRIED.

ONCE WE GIVE OUR REPORT, LET'S HEAD BACK TO OUR ROOM.

WE SPENT SO MUCH TIME IN BATTLE.

HAHH, I'M SO TIRED.

MAN, IT FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE WE SAW THE SUN.

HEY, KAZUHIHO!

I SEE...

WE'LL WIPE OUT THE SMALL FRY FOR YA, THEN.

WE'LL CATCH UP BEFORE LONG, ANYWAY.

WE'RE SURE. WE NEED TO REST FOR A WHILE.

ARE YOU SURE THAT'S ALL RIGHT?

SO ABOUT OUR GROUP EXPLORING AHEAD OF YOURS...

YOU FOLKS PAVED THE WAY, AFTER ALL...

HOPEFULLY WE CAN RAID TOGETHER AGAIN.

ONCE WE GET BACK, WE'LL FINALLY HEAD TO AOMORI.

OH? WHERE'S WRIDRA?

SHE SAID SHE WAS CHECKING ON HER KIDS.

A JEWEL?

GASP

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, JUST ENJOY YOURSELVES.

IT'S A SAFETY TALISMAN FOR YOUR TRIP.

KEEP IT CLOSE TO YOUR SKIN.

CHIRP チュン

TWEET チチ...

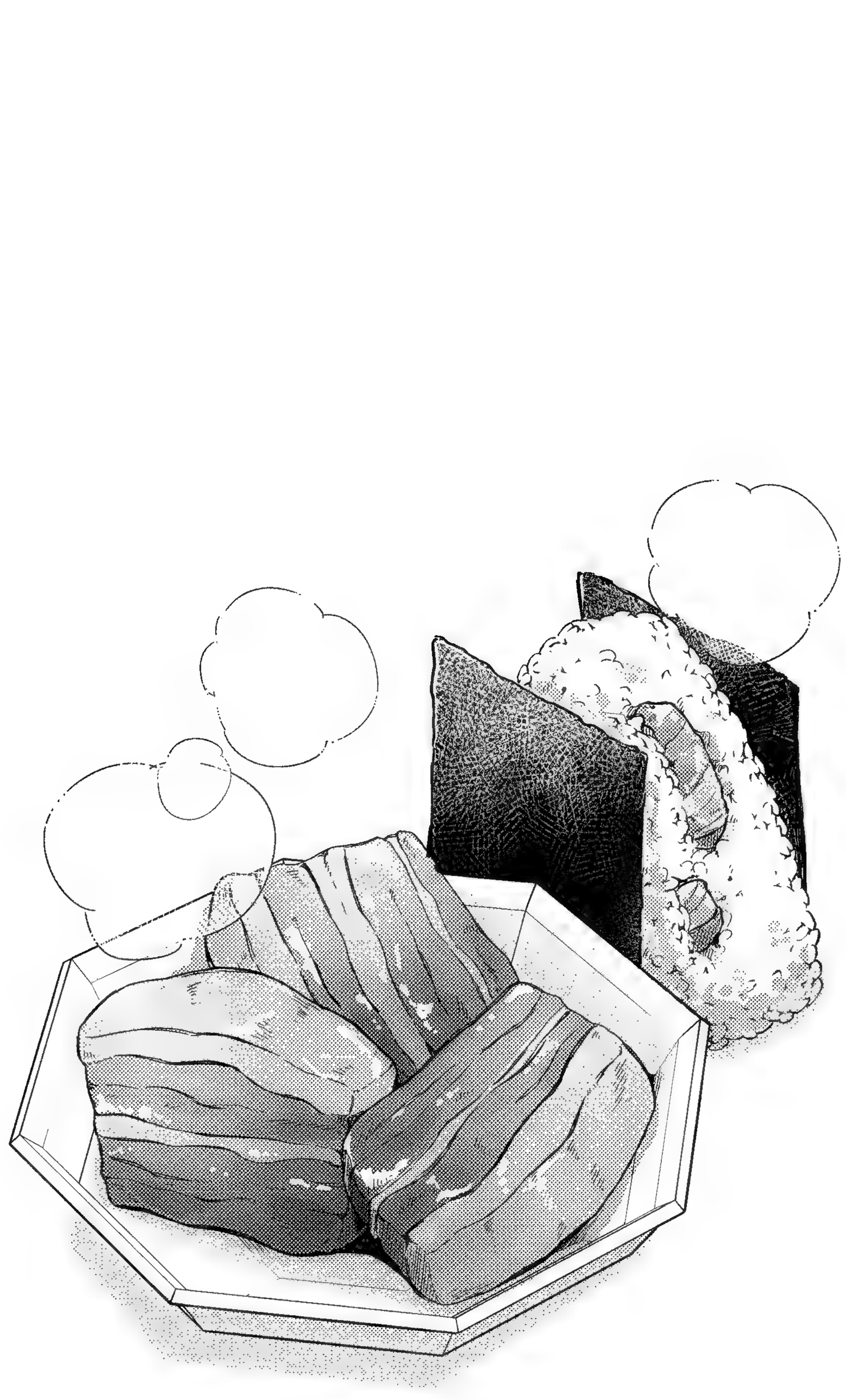
TWINGE

OH, WRIDRA...

LET'S GET TO SLEEP, THEN, MARIE!

スゥ
222
スゥ
222

Welcome to
Japan,
Ms. Elf!



CHAPTER 36 HANGING OUT IN AOMORI - 1

WHOOSH

THE BUILDINGS ARE ALL SO PRETTY.

Seated next to me are...

...an excited elf, and...

Tokyo Station — Marunouchi

AH!

AHH!

AMAZING!

THE SCENERY IS CHANGING SO QUICKLY...

AWW, I CAN'T SEE THEM ANYMORE.

I GOT COMPLETELY CAUGHT UP IN THE SIGHTS.

SCRABBLE

MROW! MROW!

OH, SORRY.

SCRABBLE

7-1 HMPH

YOU MUST WANT TO SEE THIS AS WELL.

...an unfamiliar black cat.

Several hours earlier.

チュン CHIRP

チチ… TWEET

SOOOOOO...

WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

SHE'S GOT A COLLAR, SO MAYBE HER OWNER LIVES IN THIS BUILDING...?

ﾄｯ KSH

ﾄｯ KSH

ﾄｯ KSH

HOW DID YOU GET INSIDE?

WHO DO YOU EVEN CALL ABOUT A LOST CAT?

TEEHEE.

YOU'RE A REAL BEAUTY.

OH?

KAZUHIHO!

THERE'S A NOTE UNDER HER COLLAR.

RIGHT, LET'S SEE...

"KAZUHIHO, MARIE—

YOU CAN BRING ME ON YOUR JOURNEY LIKE THIS..."

"SHE CAN EXPERIENCE THINGS AND EAT IN THE SAME WAY AS A HUMAN.

THIS WAY, I, TOO, CAN INDIRECTLY ENJOY THE TRIP..."

LICK

"THIS CAT IS A BEAST THAT SHARES HER SENSES WITH ME."

LICK

"SHE IS A FAMILIAR SUMMONED VIA THE STONE."

SO...

YOU'RE WRIDRA?!

MRRRR!

YOU MEAN THIS...

...IS WHAT THE TALISMAN WAS FOR?

ANYWAY, WE NEED TO GET READY!

WHAT?!

AHH, WE'RE CUTTING IT CLOSE FOR THE SHINKAN-SEN!

WHERE AM I GOING TO GET A CAT CARRIER AT SIX AM?!

I NEED A CAT CARRIER...

I NEED A CARRIER ...

?

LOOK HOW FAST WE'RE GOING!

Hahhh.

And that...

...is how we got here.

AH...!

GROOL

Sure, sure.

Ohhh.

I WONDER WHY SHE DIDN'T ASK MORE QUESTIONS. SHE JUST HANDED IT TO ME.

WE WERE SO LUCKY KAORUKO-SAN HAD A CARRIER.

HER PARENTS USED TO CARRY THEIR CAT IN IT, APPARENTLY.

YUP.

SEE VOLUME 6'S BONUS CHAPTER FOR DETAILS!

NOW, TIME FOR THE SHINKANSEN SPECIAL!

IT'S LUNCHTIME!

EKIBEN

JAPANESE CUISINE MADAMAN

IT'S PRETTY POPULAR DESPITE ITS LOOKS.

I THOUGHT YOUR SHUMAI BENTO LOOKED KIND OF PLAIN...

...BUT IT LOOKS SO GOOD IN REAL LIFE.

GULP

ゴクリ

YOU GOT A MAKUNOUCHI BENTO— RICE AND AN ASSORTMENT OF SIDES!

THERE ARE SO MANY COLORS!

LET'S EAT!

She's a familiar so it's fine, but real cats can't eat shumai!

スゥ
ZZZ

スゥ
ZZZ

DEAR PASSENGERS...

THANK YOU FOR TRAVELING WITH US TODAY.

THIS TRAIN IS FOR RESERVED SEATING ONLY.

THIS TRAIN IS A HAYABUSA.

OUR DESTINATION IS SHIN-HAKODATE-HOKUTO.

OUR NEXT STOP IS...

ゴォ WHOOSH !!

OH, YEAH...

I LIVED IN TOKYO UNTIL THEN. NOW, THOUGH, THERE ARE BARELY ANY FAMILIAR SIGHTS LEFT FROM MY CHILDHOOD.

MY GRAND-FATHER IN AOMORI TOOK ME IN...

...LATE IN MY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEARS.

...What did she even look like?

VVVSH

AHH!

LOOK, LOOK!

THE MOUNTAINS AND THE SKY ARE SO PRETTY!

MMGH...

SO *THIS* IS WHERE YOU GREW UP.

WHAT?!

IT'S ABOUT ANOTHER HOUR TILL WE'RE IN AOMORI.

ガラ

I HATE TO RAIN ON YOUR PARADE, BUT WE'RE IN IWATE.

MARIE...

Hirosaki, Aomori

SALE NOW ON!

JR 弘前駅 Hirosaki Station

Konan Rail

ゴゴゴ

ブルッ BRRRR

URGH...

MARIE! OVER HERE!

ゴロゴロゴロ…

EVERY-THING FEELS SO MUCH CALMER.

IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM WHERE YOU LIVE IN KOTO.

WELL, TOKYO'S BUSY DAY AND NIGHT.

SO THIS IS AOMORI...

IT'S MUCH COLDER THAN TOKYO.

WOW! THERE ARE FIELDS AS FAR AS I CAN SEE.

IS IT EVEN POSSIBLE TO EAT SO MANY CROPS?!

I could!

AH!

AS SOON AS WE GET AROUND THIS CORNER...

LOOK OVER THIS WAY, MARIE.

I BET IT'S EVEN COLDER UP THERE.

AMAZING! THE SUMMIT'S SO BUMPY AND THE SNOW'S SO WHITE!

WOOOOW!

Man, the sights are really taking me back.

IT'S THE TALLEST MOUNTAIN IN AOMORI...

...MOUNT IWAKI.

ん～

I think I was in Grandpa's car when I first saw Mount Iwaki.

WOW...

The sudden change in scenery made me gasp without even realizing it.

I was shocked at the sound of my own voice, it had been so long.

When my grandpa noticed that...

KAZUHIRO.

EAT THIS.

30分ほど前

CHOC-
OLATE.

HUH...

WHAT'S
THIS?

WE NEED
TO KEEP
OUR SUGAR
LEVELS UP.

YOU WERE
LOOKING KIND
OF DOWN.

YEAH...

NOMコロ...

IS IT
GOOD?

ミシ

PSSHH

IT TASTES THE SAME.

WE CAN FIIIINALLY LET YOU OUT AS WELL.

HOW SPACIOUS!

IT FEELS AMAZING!

TMP

YUP, I GUESS I DID.

DID YOU MISS THIS PLACE?

HEH.

YOU LOOK PRETTY HAPPY TOO.

ガラ EMPTY ン。。

THERE REALLY ISN'T ANYTHING AROUND HERE, IS THERE...?

YOU'LL GET USED TO ANYTHING ONCE IT BECOMES A PART OF YOUR DAILY LIFE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I USED TO GO TO SCHOOL IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.

BWAH!

ハグおっ

ムギュ

HUH?

HE MUST BE DOING WELL.

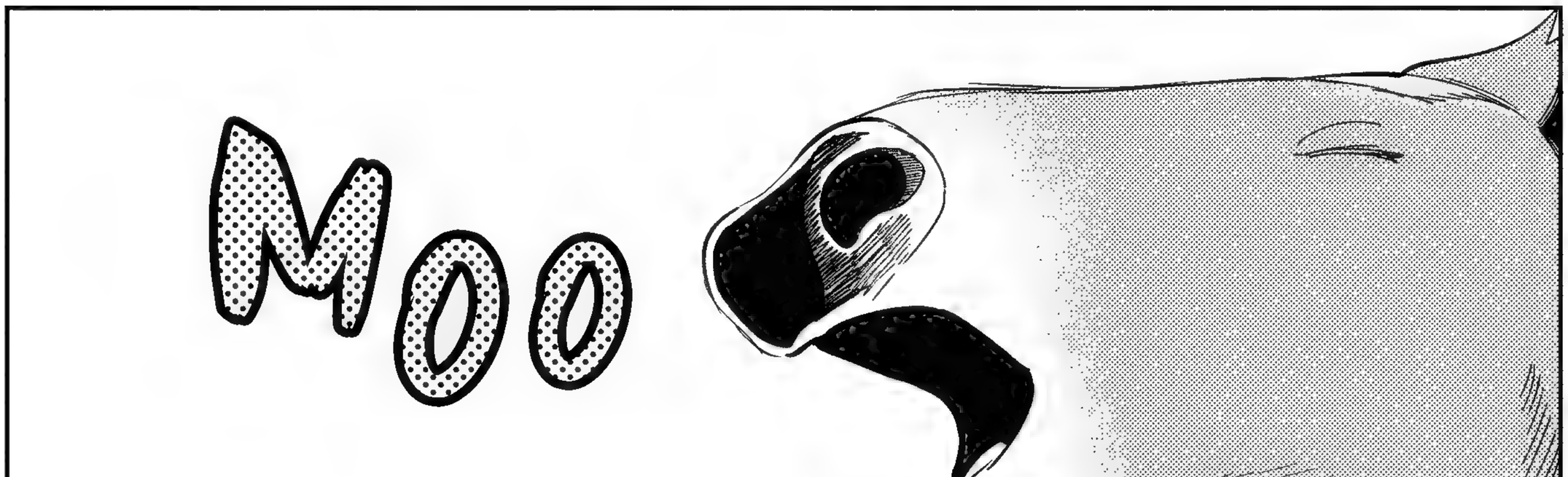
HE FINALLY STARTED KEEPING COWS.

ぴょーん

LOOK, A COW!

IT'S ONE OF THE COWS ON THE MILK CARTONS!

LOOK, MARIE.
WE'RE HERE.
THAT'S WHERE I GREW UP.
YOU SEE THAT BIG OLD HOUSE?


Moo

OH?

ARE YOU HUNGRY?

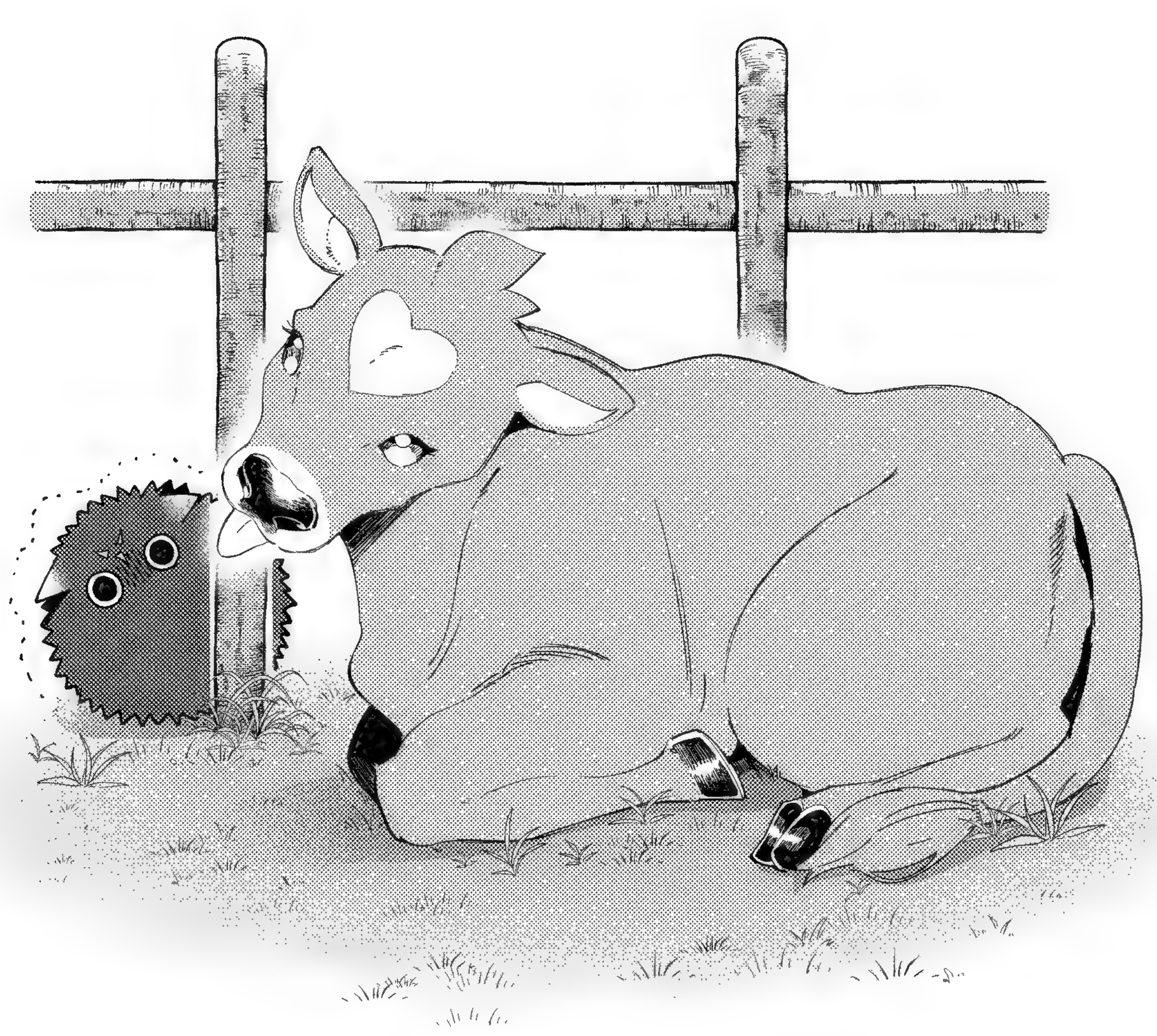
WHAT'S WRONG, HANAKO?

YOU'VE GROWN SO MUCH.

WHY, KAZUHIRO-KUN!

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, GRANDPA.

Welcome to
Japan,
Ms. Elf!



CHAPTER 37 HANGING OUT IN AOMORI - 2

IT'S ALMOST LIKE YOU'RE A FAIRY THAT STEPPED OUT OF HIS DREAMS.

IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU! MY NAME IS MARIABELLE!

THANK YOU FOR HOSTING US FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS, GRANDPA.

AH HA HA.

NO NEED TO BE SO UPTIGHT, YOU TWO!

I MUST SAY—YOU'VE GOT LOVELY HAIR!

H-HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY...

DOES HE KNOW?

HE SEEMED TO ENJOY IT SO MUCH.

...THAT HE MUST BE OFF PLAYING IN HIS DREAMS.

I EVEN USED TO SAY TO MY WIFE...

TOKYO BANANA

KAZUHIRO HERE ALWAYS LOVED SLEEPING.

SORRY, THAT WAS A STRANGE THING TO SAY.

BADMP

BADMP

BADMP

NOW, WHO DO WE HAVE HERE?!

GRANDPA'S ALWAYS BEEN WEIRDLY PERCEPTIVE...

YOU BROUGHT A CAT ALONG AS WELL?

THEY'RE...

HERE.

TI
ZWAP
THEY'RE BEHIND THIS DOOR!
THEY?
WHO'S "THEY"?
SHH. YOU NEED TO KEEP IT DOWN.
IF I'M RIGHT...
OH? THEY'RE NOT HERE.
DON'T TELL ME...
I WONDER WHERE...
...THE SOOT SPRITES ARE?
YEAH, FIGURES...

...THERE'S A SECRET PASSAGE IN THIS ROOM?

MARIE. COME AND HAVE A LOOK AT THIS STORAGE ROOM.

WHAT IF I TOLD YOU...

AH.

WRIDRA, YOU COME LOOK AS WELL!

ドタ BANG

NO WAY! WHERE?!

ガラ CLATTER

IT'S DARK IN HERE.

ABOVE THE DRESSER...

カコン CLUNK

SCURRY

AH!

GO ON, GO!

COME ON, KITTY, IT'S YOUR TIME TO SHINE!

バタ FLAIL

バタ FLAIL

UGHHH! BUT IT'S SO DARK AND SCARY!

THERE! I JUST SAW THEM!

WE CAN CALL IT A STRATEGIC RETREAT.

SURE. STILL, WE MADE SOME GREAT HEADWAY.

FOOD'S READY!

HEY THERE!

THE SOOT SPRITES EXIST!

SQU EAK

CHOP
CHOP
SPLSH
SPLSH
...LET'S EAT!
WELL, THEN...

SO GOOD!

IT'S PERFECTLY OOEY GOOEY AND OH-SO-RICH!

クゥ GLUB!

MM.

MM.

GLUB クゥ

MM.

MMM!

...BUT I WANTED YOU TO TASTE THE BEST AOMORI HAS TO OFFER.

IT'S A BIT OUT OF SEASON...

MILT, FILETS...

AND MONKFISH LIVER?

IT'S SAKE, RIGHT?

OH, I'LL HAVE SOME.

CLACK カツ

カツ CLACK

I'VE GOT SOME BOOZE.

SO, WHAT'RE WE ALL DRINKING?

THAT LOOKS TASTY...

ゴクリ...

GULP

IT'S A SHAME. I FIGURED WHOEVER HE BROUGHT HOME WOULD BE ABLE TO DRINK.

SWIP

はわ

AHHH っ...

*Age: 102

I CAN DRINK.

THOUGH I GUESS BEING A FOREIGNER... YOU'D BE ABLE TO HOLD IT.

GLG

GLG

SIP

ズズ…

GASH

ゴクン…。。。

SO THIS IS SAKE...

...IT WARMS ME RIGHT UP. I CAN FEEL IT FROM MY THROAT TO MY BELLY.

GO AHEAD AND EAT SOME MORE.

WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF FOOD!

SURE!

CHRR

CHRR

I'LL HELP TOO.

O

O

I'LL GO RUN THE BATH, THEN.

パタ

PLAP

パタ

PLAP

ジャー

FSSSH

I'LL DO THE DISHES, GRANDPA.

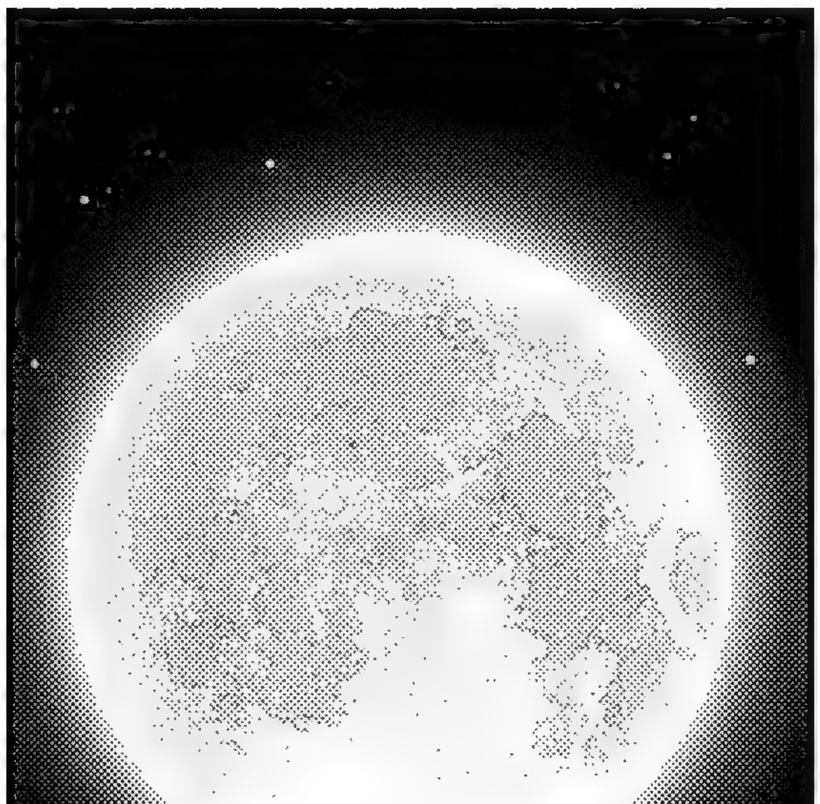
OH, THANKS.

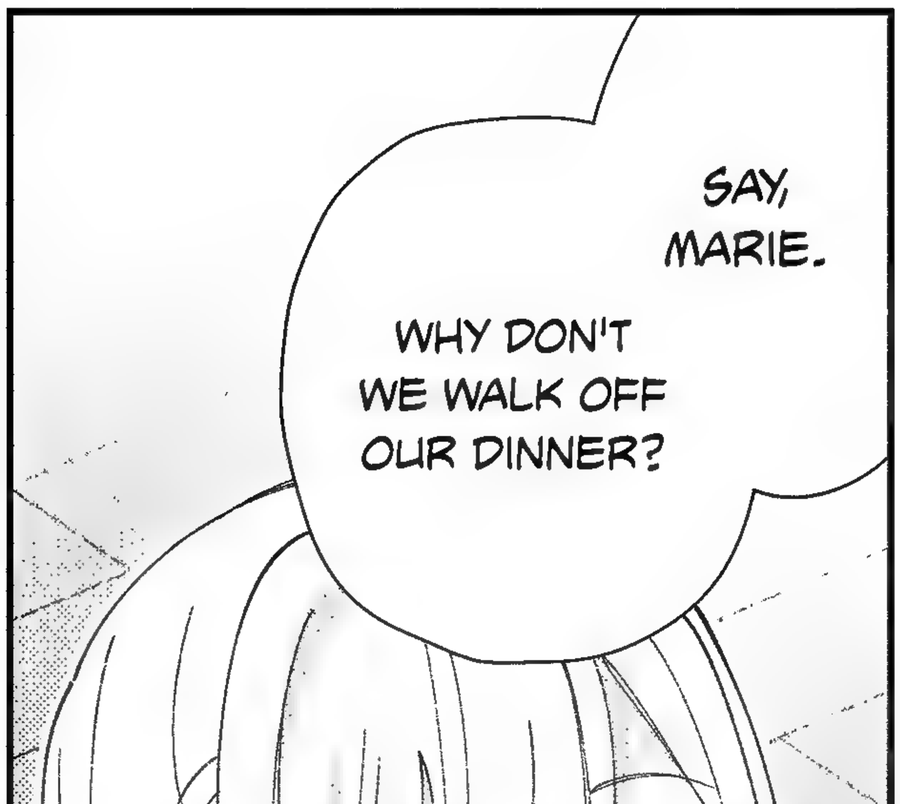
SAKE'S DANGEROUS BECAUSE IT'S SO EASY TO DRINK.

I JUST GOT SLIGHTLY CARRIED AWAY.

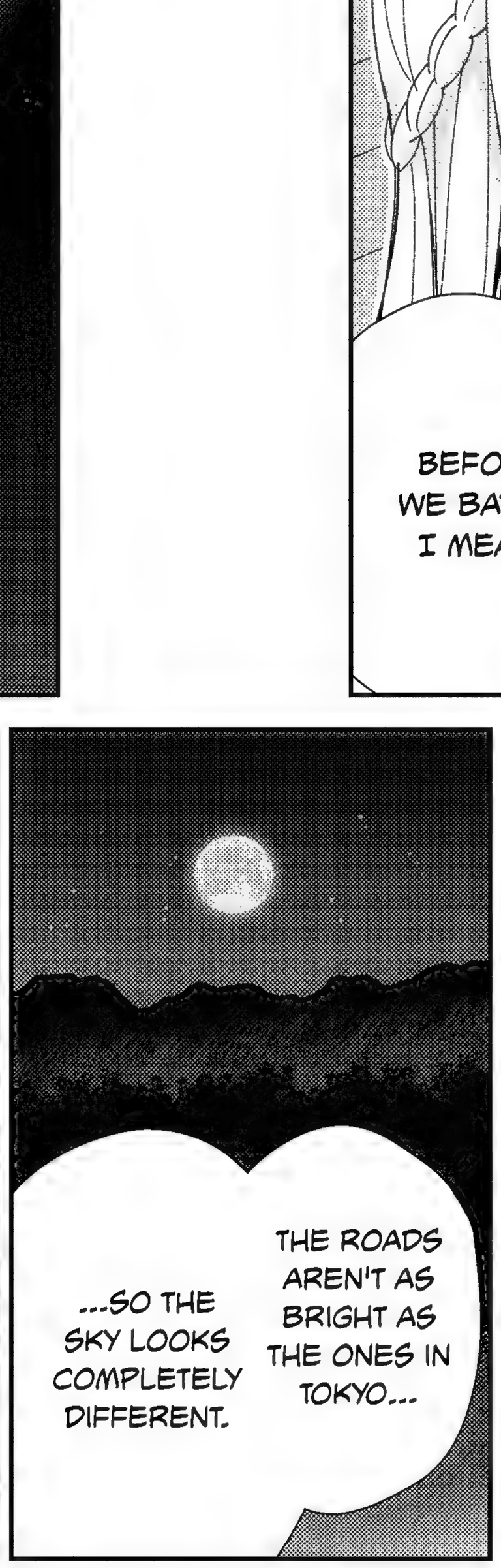
I'M FINE.

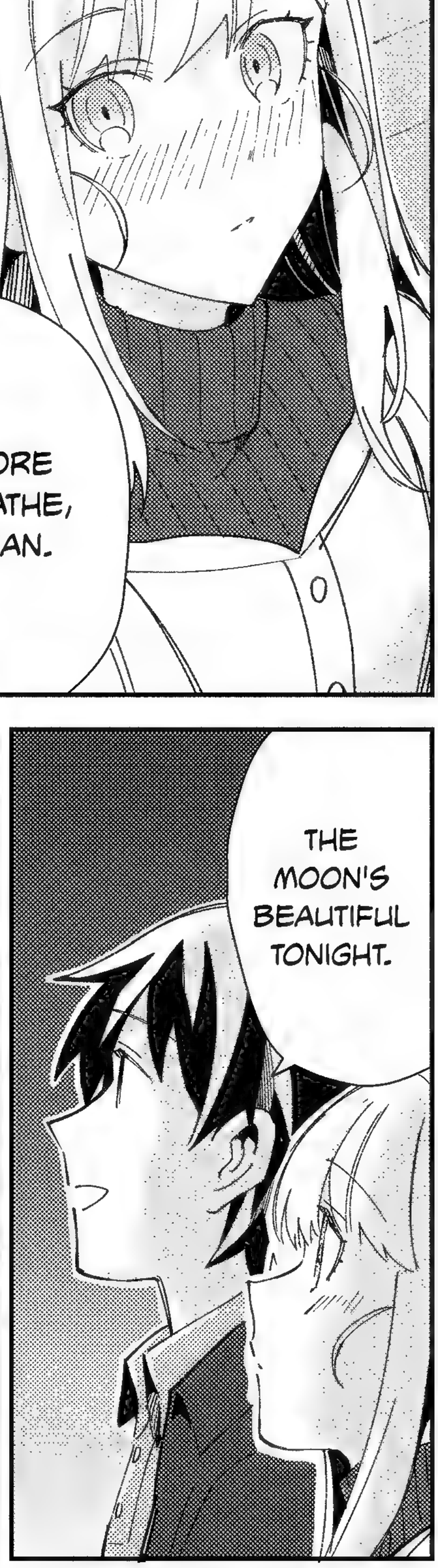
YOU OKAY? YOU DRANK QUITE A BIT.




SAY, MARIE.
WHY DON'T WE WALK OFF OUR DINNER?
BEFORE WE BATHE, I MEAN.

BUT...


...SO THE SKY LOOKS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
THE ROADS AREN'T AS BRIGHT AS THE ONES IN TOKYO...


THE MOON'S BEAUTIFUL TONIGHT.

GLOOM

...ISN'T IT *TOO* DARK?

HOO

HOO

POMF

POMF

POMF

POMF

I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT A PROPER ONE.

MY PHONE FLASHLIGHT ISN'T BRIGHT ENOUGH.

MURMUR

WHA?!

I DID...

WHA...

SPIRITS?!

YOU SUMMONED *SPIRITS*?!

HUH...

SO I TRIED USING JAPANESE TO TALK TO THEM.

UM.

I COULD *SEE* THEM BEFORE.

BUT THEY'D IGNORED ME UNTIL NOW.

SPIRITS COMMUNICATE MORE THROUGH EMOTIONS THAN WITH LANGUAGE.

NOT QUITE.

SO THERE ARE SPIRITS IN JAPAN AS WELL...

HOLD ON, THEY SPEAK JAPANESE?

NO!

BUT PEOPLE IN JAPAN ARE DIFFERENT.

WELL, IN MY WORLD WE'RE REALLY STRAIGHT-FORWARD WITH OUR EMOTIONS, RIGHT?

MAYBE I WAS ABLE TO SPEAK WITH THEM BECAUSE I'VE GOTTEN USED TO HOW PEOPLE IN JAPAN EXPRESS THEIR EMOTIONS.

SPIRITS ARE VERY EASILY INFLUENCED BY THE AREAS THEY LIVE IN.

HOW WE EXPRESS EMOTIONS?

OOOO

WELL, GRANDPA *ALWAYS* MAKES THAT FACE...

UH... DID HE?

TAKE YOUR GRANDPA FOR EXAMPLE.

TUT TUT

YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, KAZUHIHO.

BUT IT WAS REALLY SUBTLE, RIGHT?

WHEN YOU WERE DRINKING SAKE, HE SMILED.

L...!

"I LOVE YOU!"

THAT WAS GRANDPA FOR...

THAT'S AN EXAG-GERATION.

SEE? YOU'RE EMBAR-RASSED!

THAT'S WHAT I MEAN ABOUT JAPA-NESE PEOPLE BEING DIF-FERENT.

UHH... WELL, MAYBE...?

HM?

HE'S A FUNNY MAN, YOUR GRANDPA.

HE USES A NICKNAME FOR YOU EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE FAMILY.

IS THAT SOME KIND OF JAPANESE CUSTOM?

WELL, HE CALLED YOU KAZUHIRO.

A NICKNAME? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

HUH?

THAT'S MY NAME, THOUGH.

WELL, YES.

ISN'T YOUR NAME KAZUHIHO?

WAIT A MINUTE.

HUH...

WHA...

I...

I JUST MADE A MISTAKE WHEN I WAS FIRST INPUTTING MY NAME.

MY ACTUAL NAME IS KAZUHIRO...

WEEELL, IT'S NOT LIKE IT MATTERS THAT MUCH.

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANY-THING?!

YOU MEAN I'VE HAD YOUR NAME WRONG *THIS WHOLE TIME?!*

...I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

IT DOES!

...

.....

KAZUHIRO-SAN.

MURMUR

BADMP

U-UM...

LET'S JUST LEAVE IT AS KAZUHIHO FOR A WHILE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

NO, I'M GOING TO SAY IT RIGHT!

ARE YOU LISTENING, KAZUHIRO-SAN?

UH...

AH...

KAZUHIRO-SAN, KAZUHIRO-SAN, KAZUHIRO-SAN.

STOP IT ALREADY!

KAAAZUUU-HIIIROOO-SAAANNN!

DID YOU GO FOR A WALK?

WELCOME BACK.

HAVE YOU BOTH SOBERED UP A BIT?

I'M SORRY.

NO MORE SECRETS, OKAY, KAZUHIRO-SAN?

I-I'LL WALK YOU THERE.

URK... IT'S SO DARK AND SCARY...

AT THE END OF THE HALL ON THE RIGHT...

WHERE IS THE BATH?

DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THEY HAVE, DOES IT?

Welcome to
Japan,
Ms. Elf!

This Akabeko toy is a souvenir from Fukushima.
Oooh.
BOIYOI-YONG

CHAPTER 38 HANGING OUT IN AOMORI - 3

CHRR

CHRR

WUM

十" CLATTER

ギシ CREAK

LET'S SEE.

MAYBE THEY'RE STILL UP.

OH MY...

ギシ CREAK

MMH...

ハッ!

BLUR

HEY!

A PLEASANT MORNING, NO?

WHA?

WELL, FLYING TO AND FRO WAS BARELY ENOUGH TO STRETCH MY WINGS.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE CHECKING ON YOUR KIDS?!

OH, MORNING, WRIDRA.

WHAAAA?!

FWIP

FWOO

HAH!

ZWI

NG

CRACK

WHEW.

THERE'S SOME RANGE ON THAT ATTACK!

WOW!

SHA

THE HOLE IS ABOUT THE SIZE OF A PERSON.

I WONDER IF CHARGING THE ATTACK INFLUENCES THE DAMAGE?

ASTRO-BLADE...

MY NEW SWORD, CREATED FROM THE DEMON'S CORE...

HOW-EVER...

WHAT'S WRONG, WRIDRA?

THAT BLADE MAY NOT SUIT YOU, GIVEN YOU NEED TO BE STATIONARY TO CHARGE IT.

YOUR STRENGTH LIES IN A FLURRY OF ATTACKS.

HMM.

WAFT

...WAS SIMPLY SUBLIME.

THE HOT POT WE HAD YESTERDAY...

SO YOU *WERE* ABLE TO TASTE IT THROUGH THAT CAT!

OH!

THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING SO SERIOUS ABOUT?!

...I THOUGHT WE WERE HERE TO TRAIN TODAY.

WEIRD...

RIGHT?!

I NEVER THOUGHT FISH COULD HAVE SUCH A COMPLEX FLAVOR.

IT WAS AMAZING, THOUGH.

WELL, WHATEVER.

IT'S OKAY TO HAVE SOME LAZY DAYS EVERY SO OFTEN.

WE'RE HAVING SOMETHING LIKE A LONG WEEKEND IN THIS WORLD TOO.

OH, THAT REMINDS ME.

THERE'S A HOT SPRING IN WALKING DISTANCE OF GRANDPA'S PLACE.

THEY'RE OPEN IN THE MORNING, SO WE COULD TAKE A DIP.

...BATH?

A MORNING...

SH

INK

?!

THE RUINS APPARENTLY HAVE RARE SPELLS.

DRAW YOUR BLADE, KAZUHIHO.

WHA?!

I'LL HAVE THEM DOWN PAT WITHIN THE DAY!

WE'RE TRAINING UNTIL SUNSET.

IS IT NOT OBVIOUS?

FOOL.

WHAT GOT YOU SO FIRED UP?

W-WAIT, YOU TWO!

I...

I WANNA GO HOME...

THERE'S NOTHING BETTER THAN A BATH AFTER A GOOD SWEAT...

...RIGHT?

...IS IT NOT?

チュン CHIRP...

チチ CHIRP...

HOT SPRINGS!

HOT SPRINGS!

RATTLE

TEE HEE HEE.

HM?

YOINK

AH, AH, AH–

NOT SO FAST.

WE'LL SEE YOU LATER, GRANDPA.

ALL RIGHTY THEN.

GOT EVERY-THING?

YOU'RE STAYING HERE WITH ME.

WELL... I GUESS CATS CAN'T GO IN THE SPRINGS...

WRIDRA... I'LL MAKE SURE TO ENJOY IT FOR YOU TOO.

GLARE

THAT'LL BE ¥300.

IS THAT CAT YOURS?

SORRY. SHE'S GOT A REAL THING FOR HOT SPRINGS.

OH MY. CATS USUALLY DON'T LIKE WATER!

WRI-DRA?! YOU FOLLOWED US?!

BBY

LOBBY

HMM. WELL THEN...

SLIDE

OH.

WOW!

THE WATER IS GREEN!

SIP

SHE SAID IT WAS STRAIGHT FROM THE SOURCE...

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, THOUGH?

SPLISH

チャプ

SIGH

ふぅ

THIS IS WONDERFUL.

THE VIBE ISN'T QUITE THE SAME AS CHICHIBU.

ポヨヨン

I'M MAKING AN EXCEPTION, OKAY?

MAKE SURE TO STAY IN YOUR BUCKET.

HERE YOU GO.

STEAM

ZZZ

カラカラ

SLIDE

GOOD THING THE STAFF LIKE CATS.

TEE HEE.

YOU GOT LUCKY, WRIDRA.

WHAT LANGUAGE IS THAT?!

C'mere, lassie!

NICE TA MEETCHA!

LOOKIT TH' WEE PUSS.

GODCHIE CAT

UM...

ER!

OH.

HMM HMM HMM!

ENJOY YOUR BATH?

WELCOME BACK.

THE LADIES TAUGHT ME SOME OF THE DIALECT!

WHAT?!

YESSIREE- HAD ME A GOOD OL' SOAK!

I GUESS THERE'S STILL A LOT FOR ME TO LEARN ABOUT THE LANGUAGE.

I WAS GOOD AT JAPANESE... OR SO I *THOUGHT.*

I THOUGHT YOU'D TURNED INTO A LOCAL!

YOU SURE SUR-PRISED ME...

THAT'LL PROBABLY BE DIFFICULT...

W... WELL...

AHA!

I'LL START LEARNING THE DIALECT FROM HERE NEXT.

ブロロロロ…VRR

I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SIGHTSEEING HERE!

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE CASTLES.

WHAT AN INTER-ESTING CAR.

IT'S NOTHING LIKE THE ONE WE USUALLY USE.

IT'S A PICKUP. GRANDPA LENT IT TO ME.

SEE YOU LATER, HANA-CHAAAN, GRANDPAAA!

OH.

CAN I OPEN THE WINDOW?

SURE.

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE HIM SO HAPPY.

JUST GOES TO SHOW, YOU NEVER KNOW.

OH, WOOOOW!

SCREE

RIGHT.

WE'RE HERE, MARIE.

WE JUST MADE IT.

THEY'RE ALL GONE IN KOTO.

CHERRY BLOSSOMS!

HOW ARE THEY STILL IN BLOOM?!

LET'S GET CLOSER.

COME ON, WRIDRA! YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THEM BEFORE.

BUT IT'S STILL PRETTY RARE TO SEE THEM AT THIS TIME OF YEAR.

WELL, THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS *WERE* FORE-CASTED TO BLOOM MUCH LATER UP HERE.

MARIE! WRIDRA!

KASNAP

IT'S CALLED A "PHOTO."

IS THIS AN IMAGE PROJECTION SPELL?!

OH WOW!

WE'RE ON THE SCREEN.

SURE.

LET ME TAKE ONE TOO!

...

THIS IS HOW PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD KEEP MEMORIES OF THEIR TRAVELS.

I'LL TAKE A LOT OF BOTH OF YOU TODAY.

WHOA!

SNAP

R-
RIGHT.

THAT'S
GOOD.

IT'S
AMAZING!

THIS IS SO
MUCH CLEARER
AND PRETTIER THAN
WHAT MAGIC
CAN MAKE!

WE NEED TO MAKE...

...A LOT OF MEMORIES, DON'T WE?

NOW...

...LET'S GET GOING, KAZUHIRO-SAN.

RIGHT.

...

I'M STILL NOT USED TO HER CALLING ME KAZUHIRO...

Welcome to
Japan,
Ms. Elf!

PANORAMA
?!
?

CHAPTER 39 HANGING OUT IN AOMORI - 4

Hirosaki Castle

Aomori

#17

HUSTLE

#17

BUSTLE

OOOH.

APPARENTLY, THE ONE YOU SEE HERE NOW IS A RECON-STRUCTION.

A LONG TIME AGO, THE TOWER BURNED DOWN AFTER BEING STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.

パシャ SNAP

キラリッ GLEAM

カシャ KASNAP

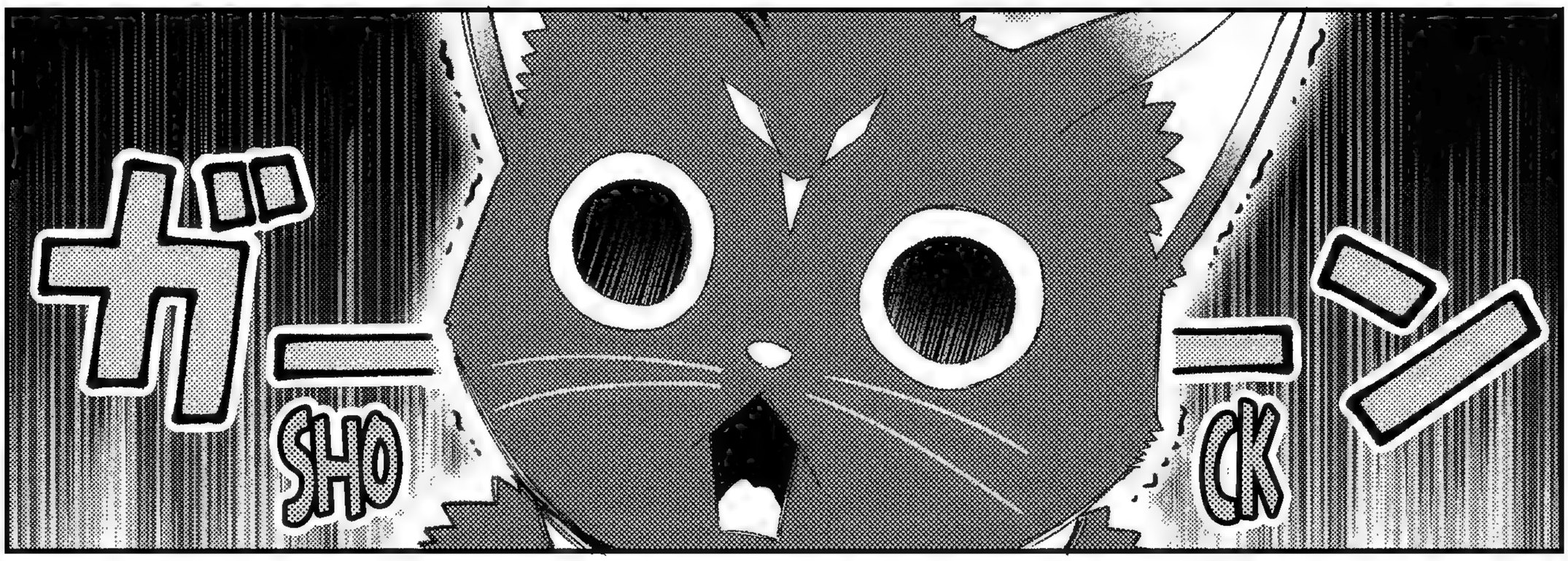
"IT IS A FLATLAND-MOUNTAIN CASTLE MADE UP OF SIX ENCLOSURES."

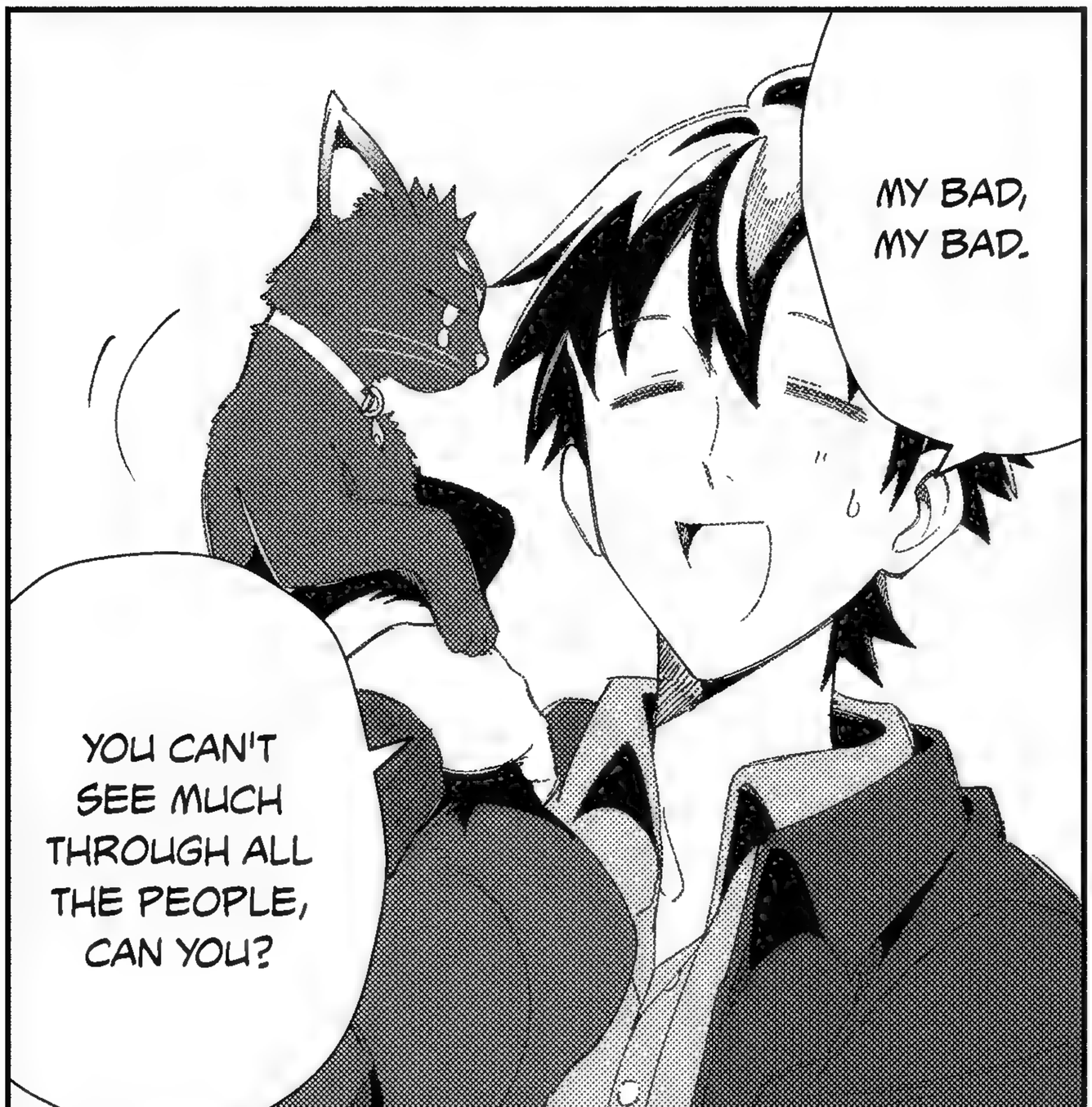
"HIROSAKI CASTLE WAS COMPLETED IN THE YEAR 1611 AND WAS HOME TO THE TSUGARU CLAN."

RT

PAT

BUSTLE
ナロウ
ナロウ
HUSTLE
BUSTLE
ナロウ
ナロウ
HUSTLE


ナロー
SHO
CK


MY BAD,
MY BAD.
YOU CAN'T SEE MUCH THROUGH ALL THE PEOPLE, CAN YOU?

YOINK

TEE HEE.

NONE HAVE EVER COME NEAR ME LIKE THIS!

HUFF

PUFF

OH.

CHERRY SPIRITS.

Mmrmmm...

RUB RUB

AH!

YEAH, I CAN'T SEE A THING.

LOOK AT THAT BRIDGE!

THIS IS THE SAME TYPE AS THE ONE AT THE CHICHIBU HOT SPRINGS.

IT'S SUCH A VIVID COLOR.

THE MOATS ARE SO UNIQUE.

THEY'RE FILLED WITH WATER AND THE WALLS GENTLY SLOPE DOWN.

WOW!

I WONDER WHY THEY'RE BUILT LIKE THIS.

HMM.

PRETTY DIFFERENT FROM THE CASTLES IN THE DREAM WORLD, HUH?

PERHAPS I COULD USE THEM FOR MY OWN BATTLE FORMATIONS?

IN THAT CASE...

No Flash Photography

No Smoking

Hirosaki Castle Tower

Hirosaki Castle Museum

The Hirosaki Castle Museum was closed in late November 2014. The building is now open to the public as an important cultural property. The materials previously exhibited are now held by various museums such as the Hirosaki City Museum and the Takaoka no Mori Historical Museum of the Hirosaki Clan.

OOOOH!

RIGHT...

MATCH... LOCK?

THEY'RE NOT THAT COMMON OVER THERE, ARE THEY?

THERE ARE MATCHLOCK GUNS UP TOP AS WELL.

SPEARS AND ARMOR...

IF I COULD APPLY THESE METHODS IN *THAT* WORLD...

RUMBLE

THIS IS GETTING SCARY.

MAXIMIZING THE GUN'S POWER THROUGH CONSTRUC-TION ALONE... HOW INTER-ESTING.

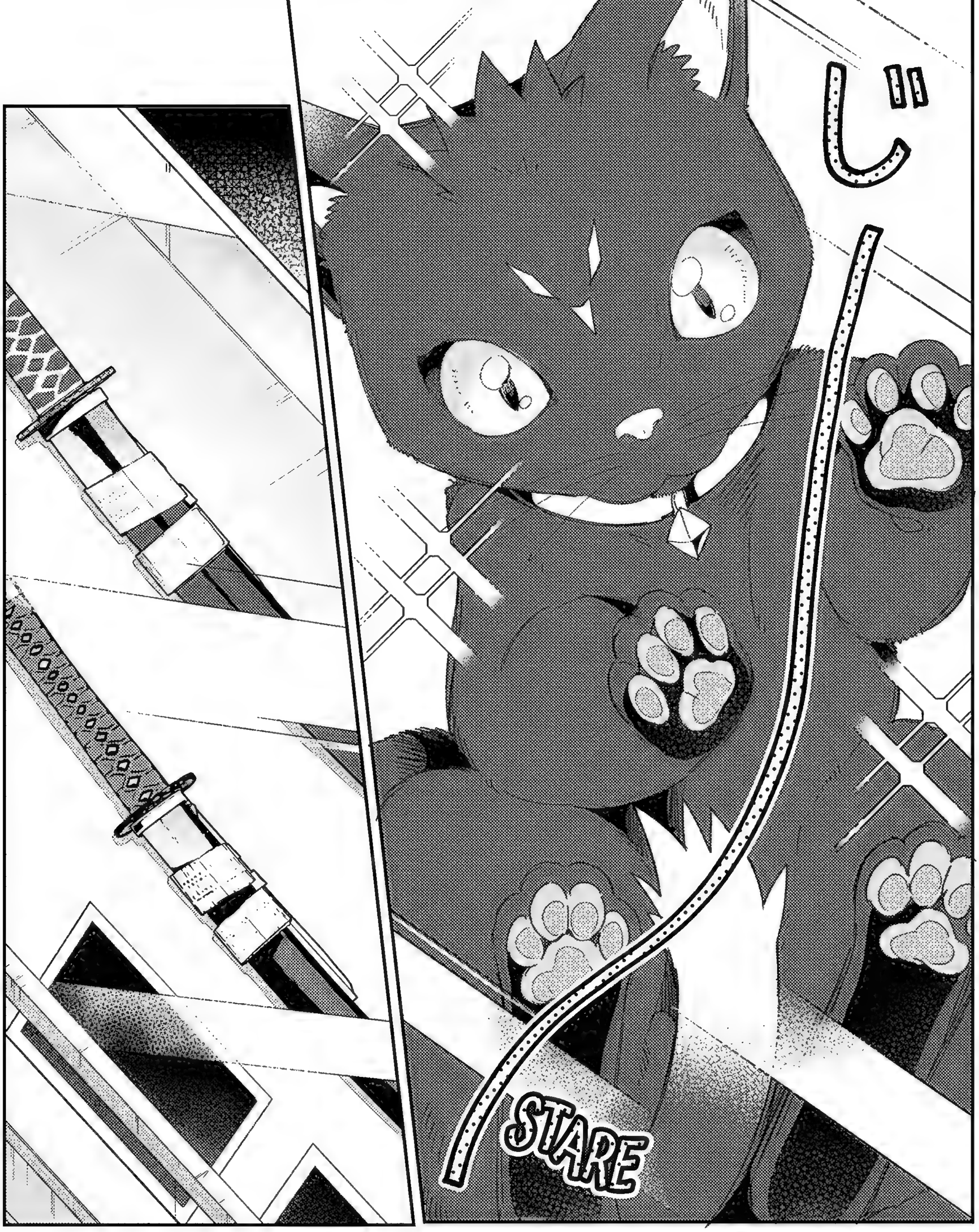
EVEN IN CONCEPT, THESE ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.

NO, THEY'RE NOT.

LET'S HOLD OFF ON INTRODUCING GUNS TO OUR DREAMS.

L-

OH. WHERE'S WRIDRA?


STARE

YOU GUYS ARE TERRIFYING...
PUFF
HUFF
SHE'S REALLY INTO THE KATANA.

1. CREATE A LOCATION THAT IS EASY TO ATTACK.

2. USE THE STRUCTURE OF THE CASTLE TO FUNNEL THE ENEMIES INTO ONE AREA.

RAHHH

RAHHH

3. BLOW THEM ALL UP!

I'VE LEARNED A LOT ABOUT HOW JAPANESE CASTLES ARE BUILT.

THE MOATS SERVE A PROPER FUNCTION AS WELL.

STRUCTURES LIKE THESE WERE PROTECTED BY LONG-RANGE FIREPOWER.

THE WIDE-OPEN AREAS WERE LIKE AN INVITATION THAT READ...

..."PLEASE ATTACK HERE SO WE CAN KILL YOU."

SHUDDER

HEH HEH HEH...

AND TO THINK IT LOOKED SO POORLY DEFENDED.

HOW CUNNING OF THEM...

SURE THING.

THAT'LL BE ¥500.

HERE'S YOUR CHANGE.

WELCOME BACK.

WHAT'D YOU BUY?

SORRY FOR THE WAIT.

TO STEAM

FWOO

FWOO

NOM

GLOOP

I'M GLAD THERE WAS AN OPEN BENCH.

ME TOO.

WE CAN SIT AND ENJOY THE FLOWERS.

MMMM!

SUPER MELTY AND STEAMING HOT! SHO GOOD!

STARE

I WAS SEEING IF I'D GET TIRED OF LOOKING AT YOUR FACE.

NOPE.

DO I HAVE SAUCE ON MY FACE?

IT WAS JUST LIKE THIS THE FIRST TIME I CAME TO JAPAN...

BA-DUMP

NOW, KAZU-HIRO-SAN...

THERE'S NO ONE AS EASYGOING AS YOU, IS THERE?

I REALLY NEED TO GET USED TO HER CALLING ME THAT...

OH, YOU'RE RIGHT.

IT REALLY TAKES ME BACK.

IT FEELS LIKE IT WAS SO LONG AGO.

YOUR FIRST DAY IN JAPAN...

...MARKED THE BEGINNING OF OUR LIFE TOGETHER

MMHMM! WELL, I FEEL LIKE...

I'VE CHANGED SO MUCH SINCE THEN.

I'M ENJOYING THINGS MORE AND MORE AS I'VE GOTTEN TO KNOW YOU.

SOMEHOW THESE SAME CHERRY BLOSSOMS...

...LOOK SO MUCH MORE VIVID NOW.

ヒュー

WHOOSH

AH!

WHAT A BREEZE!

For a moment there...

...I swear
I could see the
cherry spirits—
the ones that
always eluded
me.

MARIE.

YOU'VE GOT A PETAL...

Oh.

...ON YOUR...

THAT WAS BEAUTIFUL.

A WHIRL-WIND, MAYBE?

Welcome to
Japan,
Ms. Elf!

CHAPTER 40 HANGING OUT IN AOMORI - 5

SAY, KAZUHIRO?

CRASH

SPLASH

WH-WH-WH-WHAT IS IT?!

Are you okay?

I'M LEAVING YOU A TOWEL AND A CHANGE OF CLOTHES.

YOU KNOW TODAY?

HOW WE K-KISSED?

HAVE YOU EVER...

...DONE THAT WITH ANYONE ELSE?

OH, UH.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER THAT!

SORRY FOR ASKING OUT OF NOWHERE!

W-WAIT!

YOU'RE MY FIRST, MARIE.

I'VE NEVER DONE THAT WITH ANYONE ELSE.

E-EVEN IF IT *IS* EMBARRASSING TO ADMIT AT MY AGE...

---!

IT'S NOT THAT I'M UNPOPULAR, OKAY?!

JUST SO YOU KNOW...

...KISSING ISN'T REALLY A CUSTOM IN MY VILLAGE.

HMMM.

??

PATTER
パタ

I'M HEADING BACK NOW!

ENJOY YOUR BATH.

BUBBLE

BUBBLE

W-WILL DO.

SINCE WE'RE IN THE SAME BOAT...

SO...

...YOU NEEDN'T BE SO EMBARRASSED.

FSHHH

♪

FSHH

♪

HWAH?!

SLIP

DID SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN?

CATCH!

WHOOPS, DIDN'T MEAN TO SURPRISE YA.

YOU JUST LOOKED SO HAPPY.

S-SORRY!

AH... THAT WAS JUST AN ANALOGY...

GAH!

I SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT.

LIKE WE GREW UP TOGETHER ...

IT'S ALMOST LIKE YOU GREW UP TOGETHER.

YOU SEEM TO GET ON QUITE WELL WITH KAZU-HIRO.

SQUEAK

I CAN'T TELL HIM ABOUT THE OTHER WORLD...

SHOOT...

HOW DO I EXPLAIN OUR RELATIONSHIP?

I KNOW, MARIE-CHAN.

LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING NICE.

HRMMM

HE LOOKS TOTALLY DIFFERENT, RIGHT?

Y-YEAH...

I'M GETTING SOME REAL DÉJÀ VU...

THIS IS FROM WHEN HE WAS FOURTEEN.

BUT... HE LOOKS SO...

HE LOOKS LONELY, DOESN'T HE?

YOU THINK...

UM...

I WAS SHOCKED ...

...THAT HE CAME BACK TO AOMORI SO CHEERFUL.

HE'S HAD IT TOUGH.

...HE'S GLOOMY?

KAZUHIRO-SAN OF ALL PEOPLE.

SHIIINE

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE, THE WAY HE ACTS NOW.

SO MY WIFE AND I TOOK HIM IN.

MY DAUGHTER... HIS MOTHER... WASN'T MUCH OF ONE.

HE PROBABLY WENT BACK TO THE CITY...

...BECAUSE HE HOPED, DEEP DOWN, THAT HE WOULD SEE HER AGAIN.

HE DIDN'T SHOW MUCH INTEREST IN ANYTHING.

WHETHER IT BE OTHER PEOPLE, OR ANIMALS, OR COOKING.

HE JUST SLEPT A LOT INSTEAD.

HE SLEPT SO MUCH, I FELT BAD FOR WAKING HIM UP.

I DIDN'T THINK HE'D EVER COME BACK HERE.

HOW MUCH DOES HE KNOW?

...HE STARTED SMILING.

I'M SURE YOU'RE THE REASON...

THANK YOU.

ESPECIALLY WITH SUCH A CUTIE AT HIS SIDE.

SLIP

PLEASE, LET YOUR HAIR DOWN AND RELAX.

COME NOW...

NO NEED TO WORRY HERE AT MY HOUSE.

...TO HEAR OF YOUR TRAVELS THROUGH DREAMS?

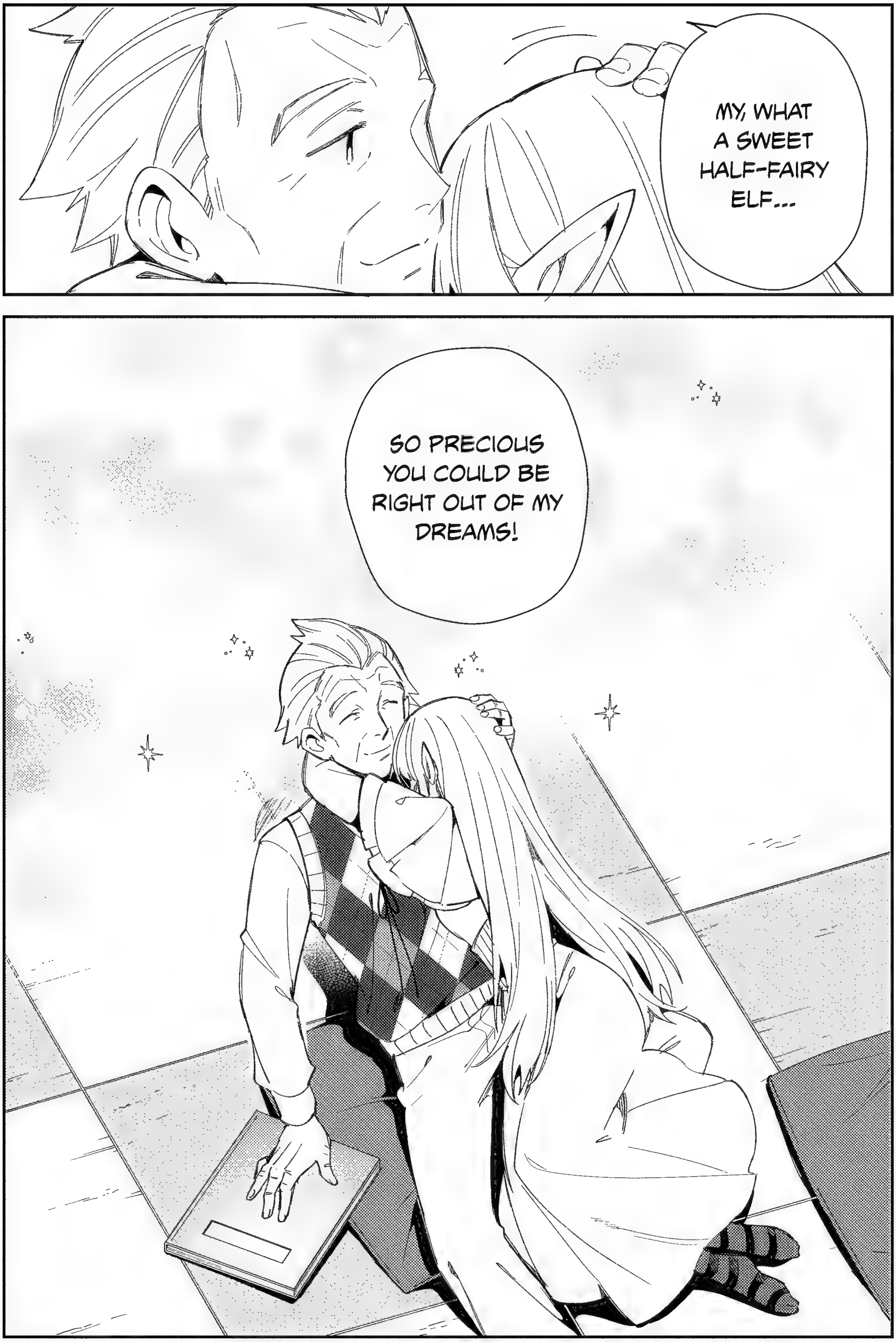
WOULDN'T YOU SAY THIS OLD MAN DESERVES...

G...

LAST ACT

OH HO!

...GRAND-FATHER!


MY, WHAT A SWEET HALF-FAIRY ELF...
SO PRECIOUS YOU COULD BE RIGHT OUT OF MY DREAMS!

OH, THEY'RE CHATTING.

I'M GLAD THEY'RE GETTING ALONG.

I'M DONE...

AH HA HA!

AND THIS IS FROM SPORTS DAY.

PHEW ー

EAR

!!!!!

FLAP わ
FLAP わ た
わ た
た

YOUR EARS!

YOUR EARS ARE OUT!

MARIE.

PFFFT

あ AH
は HA
は HA
は HA
は HA
は HA

WH...

WHAAAA?!

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HAVING US.

LOOK AFTER YOURSELVES OVER THERE.

NOT AT ALL. IT WAS REALLY A PLEASURE.

IF YOU EVER FEEL LIKE TAKING OVER THE FARM, LET ME KNOW.

KAZU-HIRO...

I-I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND...

HUG

WAAAAH!

OH MY.

GRAND-FATHER...

COME BACK WHENEVER YOU'RE FREE.

I'LL BE WAITING.

...we didn't find out how much he knew about the dream world.

In the end...

HEY, KAZUHIRO-SAN.

LET'S HANG OUT IN AOMORI AGAIN.

MMHMM.

WHOOSH

WE'LL DEFINITELY BE BACK.

HAHH.

HAHH.

LO

M

HAH.

HAHHH.

GRAB

MMPH!

HE'S GONE.

THANK YOU, LORD ZARISH.

!!!

AHHH!

AHHH-HHH!

OH... EVE, YOU'RE HURT.

H-HARDLY.

IT'S NOTHING YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT.

MAYBE IT'S ALMOST TIME TO SWAP OUT...

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE OF US WHO'S WOUNDED.

SCHLOOP

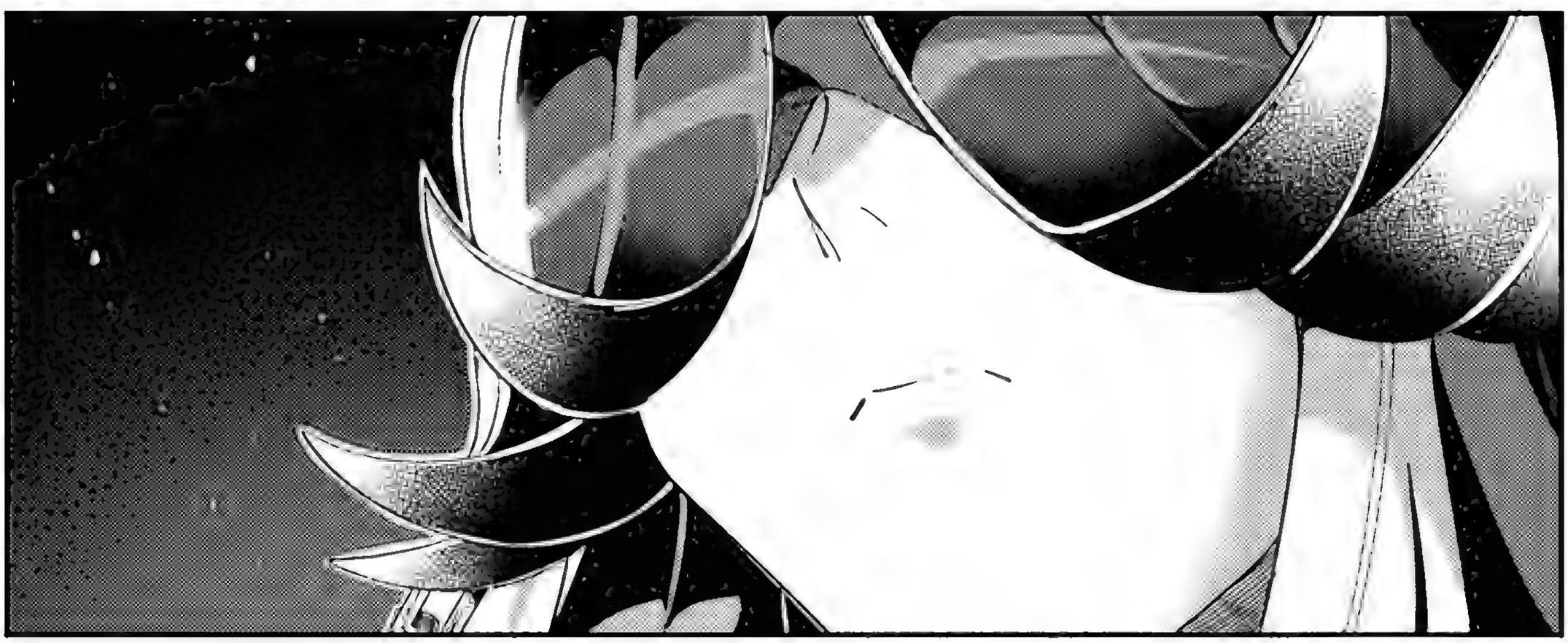
STOP!

STAY AWAY!

AHHHH!

THUD

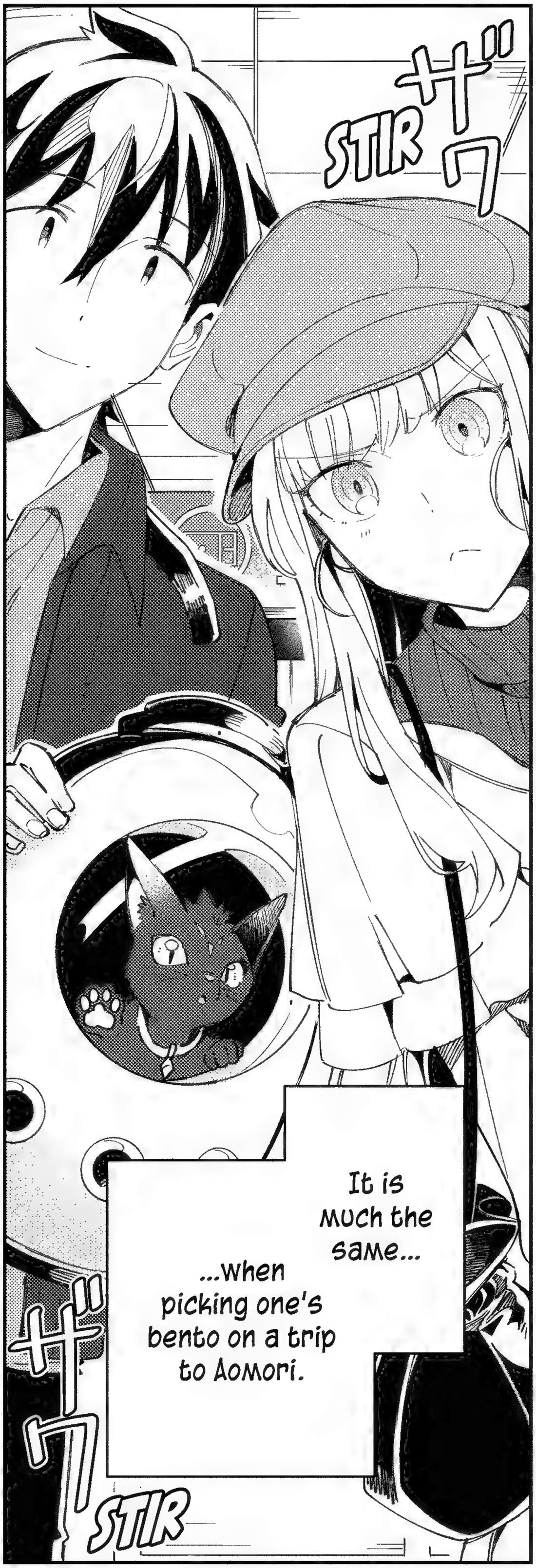
...



To be continued.

Bonus

STIR



It is much the same...

...When picking one's bento on a trip to Aomori.

STIR

Life is akin to a sea voyage.

When one is confronted with hard-ship and is struggling...

...one must have the courage to decisively grab the helm.

WE DON'T *NEED* TO BUY ONE FROM THIS STORE.

THEY ALL LOOK SO GOOD.

I JUST CAN'T PICK...

DANG...

ズラーン

LOOM

GAH!

WE STILL HAVE TIME.

BESIDES, LOOK AT ALL THE OTHER SHOPS OVER THERE.

MADA MAN Kitchen

FINALLY! WE'VE ACQUIRED OUR BENTO BOXES OF DESTINY! BUT NOW...

PHEW...

Oh, but this one...

... is in the next building over, so it's a bit of a walk.

WELL, WE CAN LOOK IT UP AND PICK WHAT SOUNDS GOOD.

N-NOW IT'S EVEN HARDER TO DECIDE.

.....

CLAMOR ゴヂャ

IT ALWAYS FEELS LIKE THEY'LL SWALLOW ME UP.

UGH... I HATE CROWDS.

CLAMOR ゴヂャ

...WE HAVE TO MAKE IT BACK THROUGH ALL THESE PEOPLE.

BUSTLE ザワ

BUSTLE ザワ

Restrooms

Coin Lockers

WE BETTER HURRY.

MARIE! STAY CLOSE.

WHA?!

WAIT A MINUTE!

GRAB

Mega Mart Kitchen

DON'T YOU DARE LET GO.

KAZUHIHO!

IF YOU LEAVE ME ON MY OWN...

I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!

RIGHT.

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!

THEY FINALLY DID IT!

DAMN IT ALL! *FINALLY!*

SO... WITH THAT OUT OF THE WAY.

I'M THE MANGA ARTIST, SHIMO AONO!

THANK YOU FOR READING VOLUME 7!

YAY

YY!

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE.

No Flash Photography

No Smoking

ALSO, THE APPEARANCE OF THE HIROSAKI CASTLE MUSEUM WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE COOPERATION OF VARIOUS OFFICIALS FROM HIROSAKI ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING: THE HIROSAKI CASTLE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION PROMOTION OFFICE, THE PARKS AND GREEN SPACES DIVISION, AND THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

PLEASE KEEP AN EYE OUT SO YOU CAN SEE HOW THINGS DEVELOP!

KAZUHIHO AND MARIE HAVE TAKEN A STEP FORWARD.

My Assistants

THANK YOU!

Alma-san
Ryo Amei-san
Makoto Saneishi-san

Here's what **actually** happened.

WELL, ABOUT THAT...

Q. Wasn't there a kiss in volume 5?

Orr this time: pages 13, 51, 76, 98, 121, 137.

WELCOME TO JAPAN, MS. ELF (MANGA) VOLUME 7
by Makishima Suzuki (story) and Shimo Aono (artwork)
Original character design by Yappen

Translated by MPT
Edited by Haruko H.
Lettered by Giuseppe "Anteppe" Fusco

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